

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON, DC, 25 January 1972

AWARD OF THE MEDAL OF HONOR

By direction of the President, under the Joint Resolution of Congress approved 12 July 1862 (amended by act of 3 March 1863, act of 9 July 1918 and act of 25 July 1963), the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty is awarded posthumously by the Department of the Army in the name of Congress to:

Corporal *Michael F. Folland*, , United States Army, who distinguished himself on 3 July 1969 while serving as an ammunition bearer with the weapons platoon of Company D, 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade during a reconnaissance patrol mission in Long Khanh Province, Republic of Vietnam. As the patrol was moving through a dense jungle area, it was caught in an intense crossfire from heavily fortified and concealed enemy ambush positions. As the patrol reacted to neutralize the ambush, it became evident that the heavy weapons could not be used in the cramped fighting area. Corporal *Folland* dropped his recoilless rifle ammunition and ran forward to join his commander in an assault on the enemy bunkers. The assaulting force moved forward until it was pinned down directly in front of the heavily fortified bunkers by machinegun fire. Corporal *Folland* stood up to draw enemy fire on himself and to place suppressive fire on the enemy positions while his commander attempted to destroy the machinegun positions with grenades. Before the officer could throw a grenade, an enemy grenade landed in the position. Corporal *Folland* alerted his comrades and his commander hurled the grenade from the position. When a second enemy grenade landed in the position, Corporal *Folland* again shouted a warning to his fellow soldiers. Seeing that no one could reach the grenade and realizing that it was about to explode, Corporal *Folland*, with complete disregard for his own safety, threw himself on the grenade. By his dauntless courage, Corporal *Folland* saved the lives of his comrades although he was mortally wounded by the explosion. Corporal *Folland's* extraordinary heroism, at the cost of his life, was in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit on him, his unit, and the United States Army.

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By Order of the Secretary of the Army:

W. C. WESTMORELAND
*General, United States
Chief of Staff.*

Official:

VERNE L. BOWERS,
*Major General, United States Army,
The Adjutant General.*

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